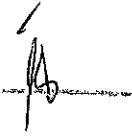


**FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE  
Republic of the Philippines  
First Regular Session**

8 APR 21 P 3:29

**SENATE**

RECEIVED BY: 

**PSR No. 357**

---

**Introduced by Honorable SENATOR JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA**

---

**RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR,  
EMPLOYMENT AND HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT, IN AID OF  
LEGISLATION, ON THE MANDATORY REQUIREMENT BY THE  
PROFESSIONAL REGULATORY COMMISSION (PRC) ON THE SEAFARERS  
TO TAKE ADDITIONAL COURSE ON THE MANAGEMENT LEVEL COURSES  
(MLC) BEFORE QUALIFYING FOR EMPLOYMENT AS MARINE OFFICERS**

WHEREAS, RA 8544, otherwise known as the Philippine Merchant Marine Officers Act of 1998 regulates the practice of the merchant marine profession in the country and mandates national compliance with the Standards of Training, Certification on Watchkeeping (STCW) Convention;

WHEREAS, RA 8544 has no provision that justifies the imposition of additional requirements beyond that required by the international convention;

WHEREAS, the Professional Regulatory Commission (Marine Boards) decrees that Philippine seafarers need additional courses and time in school over and above what foreign countries require their seamen;

WHEREAS, the PRC mandates the seafarers to take the Management Level Courses (MLC) before qualifying for employment as marine officers;

WHEREAS, the courses are not needed for complying with the STCW Convention because the degree courses for seafarers in the Philippines are already STCW Convention compliant;

WHEREAS, the topics covered by the Management Level Courses are already part of the curriculum of the maritime schools; hence superfluous for the PRC to require seafarers to take them again in the hands of private training centers;

WHEREAS, the courses under the MLC are actually upgrading programs which should be optional for seafarers and are not required by seafarers' shipping principal as a pre-condition for employment;

WHEREAS, the mandatory courses are an added financial burden for seafarers and entail a personal sacrifice of their deserved rest during vacation leave which they desire to spend with their families;

WHEREAS, those who stand to gain financially with the MLC are private training centers who wield strong influence on the PRC Board for Marine Officers;

WHEREFORE, be it resolved, as it is hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the Senate Committee on Labor, Employment and Human Resource Development to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the mandatory requirement by the Professional Regulatory Commission upon seafarers to take additional course on the Management Level Courses (MLC) before qualifying for employment as marine officers.

*Adopted,*

  
**JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA** 